AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

Claims 1-4 (canceled):

Claim 5 (currently amended): A method for reducing a decrease in photographic image quality, comprising

providing a silver halide photographic emulsion comprising silver halide grains having adsorbed on the surface thereof multiple layers of at least one sensitizing dye, wherein when the optical density attributable to the sensitizing dye ~~of the grains~~ at a spectral absorption maximum wavelength before photographic processing is G0 and the optical density attributable to the sensitizing dye ~~of the grains~~ at a spectral absorption maximum wavelength after photographic processing is G1, A represented by A=G1/G0 is 0.9 or less,

wherein an A value of 0.9 or less is obtained by:

(1) designing the sensitizing dye so that it has a structure which can provide an A value of 0.9 or less,

(2) adding a water-soluble stilbene compound, a non-ionic surfactant or a mixture of both to a developer used to develop the emulsion,

(3) treating a photographic element comprising the emulsion with an oxidizing agent to destroy the dye after bleaching and fixing,

(4) bleaching the emulsion with a persulfate bleaching bath,

(5) decolorizing the dye, or

(6) destroying association of the sensitizing dye to thereby obtain decolorization.

Claim 6 (currently amended): The ~~silver halide photographic emulsion~~ method as claimed in claim 5, wherein A is 0.5 or less.

Claims 7-8 (canceled).

Claim 9 (currently amended): The ~~silver halide photographic emulsion~~ method as claimed in claim 5, ~~comprising~~ wherein the emulsion comprises silver halide grains having adsorbed on the surface thereof multiple layers of at least one sensitizing dye, wherein the sensitizing dye in a first layer and the sensitizing dye in a second layer is not a sensitizing dye linked through a covalent bond.

Claim 10 (currently amended): The ~~silver halide photographic emulsion~~ method as claimed in claim 5, ~~which~~ wherein the emulsion contains a silver halide grain having a spectral absorption maximum wavelength of less than 500 nm and a light absorption strength of 60 or more or having a spectral absorption maximum wavelength of 500 nm or more and a light absorption strength of 100 or more.

Claim 11 (currently amended): The ~~silver halide photographic emulsion~~ method as claimed in claim 5, wherein when the maximum value of the spectral absorption factor by the sensitizing dye of an individual grain is Amax, the wavelength distance between the shortest wavelength and the longest wavelength showing 50% adsorption of Amax is 120 nm or less.

Claim 12 (currently amended): The ~~silver halide photographic emulsion~~ method as claimed in claim 5, wherein when the maximum value of the spectral sensitivity by the

sensitizing dye grains is Smax, the wavelength distance between the shortest wavelength and the longest wavelength showing 50% sensitivity of Smax is 120 nm or less.

Claim 13 (currently amended): The ~~silver halide photographic emulsion~~ method as claimed in claim 11, wherein the longest wavelength showing a spectral absorption factor corresponding to 50% adsorption of Amax is in the range of from 460 to 510 nm, from 560 to 610 nm or from 640 to 730 nm.

Claim 14 (currently amended): The ~~silver halide photographic emulsion~~ method as claimed in claim 12, wherein the longest wavelength showing a spectral sensitivity corresponding to 50% sensitivity of Smax is in the range of from 460 to 510 nm, from 560 to 610 nm or from 640 to 730 nm.

Claim 15 (currently amended): The method ~~silver halide photographic emulsion~~ as claimed in claim 5, wherein the excitation energy of the sensitizing dye in a second layer or layers above the second layer makes an energy transfer to the sensitizing dye in the first layer at an efficiency of 10% or more.

Claim 16 (currently amended): The method ~~silver halide photographic emulsion~~ as claimed in claim 5, wherein the sensitizing dye in the first layer and the sensitizing dye in the second or upper layer both show the J-band absorption.

Claim 17 (currently amended): The method ~~silver halide photographic emulsion~~ as claimed in claim 5, ~~which~~ wherein the emulsion contains a sensitizing dye having at least one aromatic group.

Claim 18 (currently amended): The method ~~silver halide photographic emulsion~~ as claimed in claim 5, ~~which~~ wherein the emulsion contains a sensitizing dye having a basic nucleus of three or more condensed rings.

Claim 19 (currently amended): The method ~~silver halide photographic emulsion~~ as claimed in ~~claims~~ claim 5 wherein tabular grains having an aspect ratio of 2 or more are present in a proportion of 50% (area) or more of all silver halide grains in the emulsion.

Claim 20 (currently amended): The method ~~silver halide photographic emulsion~~ as claimed in claim 5, ~~which~~ wherein the emulsion is subjected to selenium sensitization.

Claim 21 (currently amended): The method ~~silver halide photographic emulsion~~ as claimed in claim 5, ~~which~~ wherein the emulsion contains a silver halide adsorptive compound other than a sensitizing dye.

Claim 22 (canceled).